

CAPE FEAR NAVIGATION COMPANY.—We learn from the Observer, that the annual meeting of this Company was held at Fayetteville, on Thursday, the 31st ult. John D. Star, Esq., held the proxy of the State. All the old directors were re-elected.

The amount of tolls for the year has been \$11,687.56, (being 10 per cent. on the amount of freights earned by the boats on the river, viz: \$116,075.60). The previous year the freights were \$100,674.44. Increase of freights for 1855, \$15,308.16. Whilst there has been so large an increase of freights, the tolls collected by the Company are less by \$897.12, in consequence of a reduction of the tolls from 12 1/2 to 10 per cent. on amount of freights. The freights down the river have increased \$10,163.97, while the freights up have decreased \$1,419.51. The expenditures for work on the river during the year, were \$3,504.05. The dividends were 10 per cent on the capital stock. The Observer says:

Among the items of freight the following are the most prominent:

6,065 bales Cotton.	Dows.
3,348 " Domestic	
20,225 bbls. Flour.	
1,253 " Copper Ore. (returns incomplete.)	
1,384 " Naval Stores.	
3,365 bundles paper.	
45,454 bushels Salt.	Uf.
388 bbls. Sugar	
1,696 " Molasses.	
10,374 bbls. of all kinds.	
7,526 bags Coffee.	
6554 ton-Bar Iron.	
1,975 sacks Lime. (returns incomplete.)	
21,806 bushels Grain.	
5,162 bags Guano.	

WILMINGTON, CHARLOTTE AND ROTHERFORD RAIL ROAD MEETING.—We learn that the attendance at the meeting held last evening, at the Upper Railroad Bridge, was not large in numbers, but composed of such were fully alive to the importance of the work. Speeches were made by Dr. F. J. Hill, Thos. D. Meares, and J. A. VanBokelen, Esqs.

The next meeting will be held at the "Oaks," (Dry Pond,) to-morrow (Wednesday) evening, at 8 o'clock.

The polls will be opened, we believe, on next Thursday week, the 14th inst., when the voters of the town will decide whether the town shall subscribe two hundred thousand dollars to the road. It requires a majority of two-thirds of the votes polled, to authorize the Commissioners to make the subscription.—Daily Journal, 5th inst.

Mr. Kerr's Letter.

We publish to-day the letter of Hon. John Kerr, Representative in the last Congress from the 5th District of this State, to the Editor of the Observer. We prefer to give the letter in extenso, in order that our K. N. Whig contemporaries shall not have the pleasure of accusing us of publishing garbled extracts to suit political ends. We are not sure that Mr. Kerr is justifiable in placing W. K. Lane, Esq., on the Know-Nothing list. Mr. L. has, if we mistake not, refused to be run as a candidate for Congress by the dark-lantern party of his district. This act of his, one would suppose, ought to have been sufficient inducement to Mr. Kerr not to have connected his (Mr. L.'s) name with the disorganizers of the Democratic party. There are other portions of the letter which we do not approve of, and might well be omitted, but we give it at length for reasons expressed above.

We respectfully commend Mr. K.'s letter to the Editors of the Herald and the Commercial. They should, at least, be as liberal as we have been, and allow their patrons a chance to read it.

The Richmond Enquirer of the 5th inst., says that

returns are in from all the counties except Wyoming, which generally gives about 20 Whig majority. The five counties heard from since the publication of our table, on Friday last, give a majority to Mr. Wise of 25, which, added to his previous majority, makes his present majority stand 10,184. In our issue of Friday next we expect to give the full vote of all the counties in the State, with such corrections as the official returns received, in the meantime, may suggest. Mr. Wise's majority will be about 10,000.

We have gained 23 members of the Legislature, and lost 17. This gives us a majority of 48 in the next Legislature.

Of the thirteen members of Congress elected, twelve are Democrats—one district (Mr. Lewis's) still to be heard from. The Know Nothings are claiming the election of their candidate (Mr. Carline), but the election is so close that it is believed the result will not be known until the official returns shall be counted.

Later from Havana.

The steamer Black Warrior arrived at New York on Saturday last from Havana, with dates to the 28th ult. All was quiet throughout Cuba, and business was improving. The steamer Fulton was the only U. S. vessel at Havana. The Princeton and Cyane were cruising off San Antonio. The steamer San Jacinto was at Matanzas, and the sloop-of-war Jarvestown was at Key West.

The political prisoners, who were still detained at Havana, would probably be sentenced to the galleys in Africa.

The small pox and yellow-fever did not appear to

be spreading to any considerable extent.

A royal order has been published for the establishment of a joint stock bank at Havana, with a capital of \$3,000,000.

Sigars were firm at previous rates. Molasses was

scarce, and held at 34 3/4 cents.

Exchange rates had improved. Sterling 81 9/16

premium; New York 24 3/4 cents.

CHOLERA IN NEW ORLEANS.—The Board of Health of New Orleans has declared the cholera to be raging in that city as an epidemic. A despatch of the 30th ult., says that there were 200 deaths from the disease during the previous week.

ACCIDENT.—A man named Gorden, had his left hand and part of the arm so badly injured, on Saturday last, while engaged in firing the cannon in honor of the Virginia election, that amputation was rendered necessary. It appears that when the accident happened, it was not the proper time for firing, and that the man was intoxicated. His eyes were also badly burnt, and fears are entertained for the safety of the sight. The amputation was performed by Dr. Thomas, assisted by Drs. Dickson and Holden. The arm was taken off a little below the elbow.

THE Black River Watchman and Sumter Banner are being merged into one, and will hereafter be known by the title of the "Southern Watchman."

Messrs. Gilbert and Richardson, Proprietors; J. S. Richardson, Jr., A. A. Gilbert, and J. R. Haynesworth, Esqs., Editors.

THE meeting at the Dry Pond last night, was very fully attended, as we learn from gentlemen who were present, and much enthusiasm prevailed. It is believed by the friends of the town subscription, that the matter becomes more fully understood, the objection to the measure decreases. Several speeches were made last night in favor of subscription.

The next meeting will take place at the Court House, to-morrow evening, at 8 o'clock.

Daily Journal, 7th inst.

THE Know Nothing National Convention met in Philadelphia on Monday last. It is reported that 110 delegates were in attendance from all parts of the Union. From the dispatches in the papers, it appears, as was to have been expected, that their meetings are secret. It was ascertained, however, that the Convention was held in the Assembly building on Tenth and Chestnut Streets. Nothing was known, outside of their proceedings, except from rumors which had been put in circulation to the effect that the Massachusetts delegation were not admitted on account of their refusal to adopt the third degree, to stand by the Union at all hazards. This is, however, mere rumor, and no doubt put out for effect.—The third degree plank of their platform has already been published in this paper.

NEW HAVEN ELECTION.—A municipal election was held in New Haven, Connecticut, on Monday last. A private letter to a gentleman here, says that the Democrats carried their whole ticket, electing Judge Blackman, Mayor.

In Norwich, Connecticut, on the same day, a despatch says that at their City Election, Wm. L. Brewer, Democrat, on the largest vote ever given in the city, was elected Mayor by over two hundred majority, and every candidate on the Democratic ticket for Alderman, Common Council, Clerk, Sheriff, &c., was elected by about the same majority. The Know-Nothing majority in the town last April was over three hundred.

Capt. Brown, of the Schr. Ann Maria, picked up on the beach, between Lockwoods Folly and Shalotte, on Saturday last, a junk bottle, labelled "look inside." When opened it was found to contain the following note:—Ship Wm. Witherle, of Castine, Me., Atwood, Master, lat. 31 N., long. 80 W., from N. Orleans for Liverpool, 9 days out, April 13th, 1855. Please notice where this is found.

One Week Later from Europe.

The Steamship Africa, arrived at Halifax on the 5th inst., with Liverpool dates to the 26th ult.—The Commercial news by this arrival is important. Cotton has firmed at advanced 4d per lb., with an active demand. Breadstuffs unchanged, and the crops promising. See Commercial head for markets.

The advices by this arrival are interesting and important.

The Vienna conferences are to be re-opened.

A secret expedition is preparing in the Crimea for some important enterprise.

The siege of Sebastopol is unchanged, the place still remaining impregnable to the assaults of the allies.

Gen. Pelissier, the new French commander-in-chief, contemplates making an attack on the Russians in open field.

The motion of a want of confidence in the ministry made in the British Parliament was unsuccessful.

The latest intelligence from the Crimea says that in an engagement before the Flagstaff Battery the French destroyed the Russian works.

The Vienna conferences were expected to have been opened on Monday, the 28th ult.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCES TO BE RE-OPENED.—On the 20th of May, Count Buel had an interview with Lord Westmoreland and Count Bourgeny, and suggested that the members of the late Conference meet again. The French and English Ministers could not give any reply, but it was understood that if they assent, Count Buel, on the part of Austria, would again attempt to arrange the third point.

The Berlin papers report that the Austrian mediatory proposals are that Russia and Turkey settle between themselves the number of ships each shall keep in the Black Sea—England and France to keep each two ships therein—Turkey to undertake not to enter into any treaty with Russia, unless first submitted to France and England.

According to the Vienna papers the conferences would be re-opened. A meeting would be held on the 26th without the Russian plenipotentiaries, and another on the 28th, at which those functionaries would be present.

Lord Palmerston's explanations in Parliament, in regard to this matter, indicated that the meetings above referred to would be preliminary only.

AUSTRIA.—An Austrian envoy was to leave immediately for Frankfurt to urge the immediate mobilization of the German Federal forces.

It is reported that Austria sent secret circulars to all the German Courts, insisting that each shall specify distinctly the line of conduct they mean to follow.

The secret expedition which was recalled from Rensick is reported to have again sailed—destination unknown.

The recent arrival of three French divisions makes the allies' force about 200,000 men—say French troops 120,000; English 30,000; Turks 40,000, and Sardinia 11,000.

SEVERE BATTLE BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.—General Pelissier telegraphs under date of May 24 as follows:

"A very lively combat against our most important position lasted all last night, but we obtained complete success. The Russian loss was enormous and our considerable."

The Patrie gives some further information of the affair. The French attacked the Russian entrenched camp near the Quarantine bastion on the night of the 22d, and again on the night of the 23d, and carried it by assault.

SATURDAY MORNING.—The Monitor says, yesterday, that the French occupied the large plateau between the central bastion and the sea shore. The enemy having suffered enormous losses the preceding day, ceded their ground more easily.

FRANCE.—The French minister of foreign affairs, in a circular addressed to the French agents abroad, answers Nesselrode's late note.

FRONTIER BATTLES.—The French fleet was at Riel on the 22d of May, on the way to join the English.

The British cruisers had brought several prizes to Elsinore. The bulk of the English fleet was at Næge.

Official information had reached the British Consul at Elsinore, stating that the Russian government had ordered all the ships of war at Cronstadt to be sunk except eight liners.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 10.—All the fortified harbors in the Bay of Finland have been placed in a state of siege.

The Austrian squadron was about to leave Trieste. Correspondence from the English Camp to the 8th says: "The army is well supplied with luxuries as necessities. Some fever and cholera still prevail."

A spirited engagement in a night attack on the night of the 10th took place, and was attended with considerable loss. It was repeated on the 11th. On the 11th a sortie was made against the left attack.—The Russians charged up the trenches, and some leaped over the parapets, where they were bayoneted.

The loss on both sides was severe. The British lost a captain, and over one hundred men were put hors d' combat. On the 19th of May Gortschakoff telegraphs as follows: "The enemies' fire is weak, and our losses are moderate. Both sides are repairing and erecting batteries."

AUSTRIA.—Lord Palmerston stated in Parliament that Gen. Corbioni's proclamation of martial law in the Crimea, only referred to persons engaged in inducing Austrian soldiers to desert.

POLAND.—An imperial ukase authorizes the Polish treasury to effect a loan for the current expenses of the army in Poland.

GREAT BRITAIN.—A great debate occurred in the House of Commons, on the 24th, on Dr. Israel's motion for a want of confidence, and expressing dissatisfaction in the ambiguous language and uncertain conduct of the government.

Sir Francis Baring, in behalf of the government, moved an amendment regretting the failure of the conferences, and promising every support to continue the war.

Dr. Israel and his party lashed the government, especially Lord Palmerston and Russell. The latter

replied, defending his conduct at Vienna. The debate was continued on Friday, when, on a division, the motion was carried by 219 for Dr. Israel, and 310 against him.

Lord Palmerston made a similar motion in the House of Lords, but withdrew it.

The bill abolishing newspaper stamps was read a second time in the House of Lords, when Parliament adjourned to the 4th of June.

On the 24th, Lord Palmerston had a private meeting of the members of Parliament in his house, where over 300 were present. He asserted the unanimity of the government, and declared the intention of prosecuting the war. The proceedings were harmonious.

It was expected that by June 20th, every available man in Great Britain, belonging to the infantry regiments, will have embarked for the war.

It was expected that an unconditional pardon of Smith O'Brien would be obtained.

The ship G. L. Sampson, of New York, was burnt at Sea on the 4th of May. All hands were saved.

The steamer Sarah Sands has been taken up by the British government to convey troops to the Crimea.

A severe earthquake occurred at Auckland, New Zealand, on the 12th of February.

Queen Victoria will visit Paris on the 16th of August.

SPAIN.—A conspiracy on a small scale has been discovered at Saragossa. An officer, with 60 men belonging to the garrison, deserted.

SARDINIA.—The infant son of the king of Sardinia has died, and it was reported that the king would go to the Crimea.

RUSSIA.—Russia has just annexed four districts of country belonging to the Mogul tribes on the frontiers of China.

THE Bounty Land Act.—Are Engineers, Firemen, and Coal-heavers among its Beneficiaries?

This question is fully and satisfactorily answered in the following ably-written letter from Commissioner Waldo:

PENSION OFFICE, June 1, 1855.

SIR: A question has arisen whether engineers, coal-heavers, firemen, and boys who have served in the navy of the United States, and who were present in 1790, are beneficiaries under the act in relation to certain grants of bounty land to certain officers and soldiers who have been engaged in the military service of the United States, approved March 3, 1855. This act, among other things, provides that every officer, commissioned and non-commissioned, seaman, ordinary seaman, marine, clerk, and landsman in the navy in any of said wars shall be entitled to the benefit of the bounty land.

Persons here designated, engineers, coal-heavers, firemen, and boys are not directly named; and unless they are, by fair construction, found to be included in some one or more of the named classes, they can not participate in the benefits of this act. In construing the language of this act, like all others, we must understand the words and according to their usual and most known signification.

Persons who are included in the more general class of persons and landsmen, entitled to the benefits of this act, are not included in the benefits of this act. In construing the language of this act, like all others, we must understand the words and according to their usual and most known signification.

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